



Texas Social Studies Content Recommendations Set a Strong Course for Student Success

IDRA Testimony on Workgroup D and E Recommendations for Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade Social Studies and Ethnic Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, Submitted to the Texas State Board of Education, August 1, 2022

Dear Chairman Ellis and Members of the State Board of Education:

All students deserve access to high-quality, culturally-sustaining schools, where they learn about themselves, their histories, and the world they live in. The recommendations made by the D & E workgroups would bring Texas schools a step closer to comprehensive and inclusive learning standards that tell the full history of the diverse cultures, people and perspectives that comprise the story of Texas.

We want to acknowledge and applaud the expansion of ethnic studies course standards. We know that high-quality ethnic studies courses bring personal and educational benefits to students. They support students' academic achievement, lead to increased school attendance, and help students build self-confidence and leadership skills. In 2018 and 2019, many of you heard from dozens of students and families who shared how ethnic studies courses positively impacted their lives and educational experiences, and workgroup E has put forward content recommendations that would extend those benefits to even more Texas students.

As you continue your review of the social studies TEKS, we encourage the Board to incorporate recommendations for accurate and comprehensive social studies standards that reflect the voices and histories of all Texans and Americans, including those who are Black, Latino, Native/Indigenous, LGBTQI+-identified and women.

IDRA is available for any questions or further resources that we can provide. Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., IDRA Deputy Director of Policy, at chloe.sikes@idra.org.

Resources

IDRA. (2021). Cultural and Ethnic Studies, webpage. <https://idra.news/EthnicStudies>

IDRA. (August 1, 2022). [IDRA Launches Resource Hub to Promote Accurate and Inclusive Education](#) – New Hub Provides Lesson Plans and Tools for Teaching History and Current Events About Race and Gender in Today's Classroom Censorship Climate (We All Belong – School Resource Hub: <https://www.idraseen.org/hub>).

IDRA. (2021). Value of Ethnic Studies, infographic. <https://idra.news/EthnicStudieslg>

IDRA is an independent, non-profit organization led by Celina Moreno, J.D. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.